

WE CLAIM

1 1. A method, comprising:
2 detecting an object associated with a web page;
3 assessing which of plural trust levels is to be accorded to the object; and
4 suppressing the object based on the accorded trust level.

1 2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the object is one of a COM
2 object or an ActiveX control.

1 3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the object is embedded in
2 the web page, and includes any one of downloadable code, a link to a URL, a popup
3 window, graphic data, a video file, an audio file, and a text file.

1 4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the object is a link to an
2 object on a remote server, wherein further the object on the remote server includes any
3 one of downloadable code, a URL, a popup window, graphic data, a video file, an audio
4 file, and a text file.

1 5. A method according to Claim 1,
2 wherein assessing which of the plural trust levels is to be accorded to the
3 object evaluates criteria including whether the object is from a trusted source, whether the
4 object is to upgrade an existing object, and whether a download flag is set, and

5 wherein further suppressing the object includes displaying a prompt to
6 indicate the suppression of the object based upon a positive evaluation of any of the
7 criteria.

1 6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein the prompt is a modal
2 prompt to provide a user with an activation choice.

1 7. A method according to Claim 5, wherein the prompt is a modeless
2 prompt to advise a user of the object being suppressed.

1 8. A method according to Claim 5, wherein the prompt is a modeless
2 prompt to advise a user of the object being suppressed and to provide the user with an
3 activation choice.

1 9. A method according to Claim 1,
2 wherein assessing which of the plural trust levels is to be accorded to the
3 object evaluates criteria including whether the object is to be rendered and whether a
4 download flag is set, and

5 wherein further suppressing the object includes displaying a prompt to
6 indicate the suppression of the object based upon a positive evaluation of any of the
7 criteria.

1 10. A method according to Claim 9, wherein the prompt is a modal
2 prompt to provide a user with an activation choice.

1 11. A method according to Claim 9, wherein the prompt is a modeless
2 prompt to advise a user of the object being suppressed.

1 12. A method according to Claim 9, wherein the prompt is a modeless
2 prompt to advise a user of the object being suppressed and to provide the user with an
3 activation choice.

1 13. A method according to Claim 1,
2 wherein assessing which of the plural trust levels is to be accorded to the
3 object determines whether the object is a popup window, and
4 wherein further suppressing the object includes displaying a prompt to
5 indicate the suppression of the object based upon a positive determination.

1 14. A method according to Claim 13, wherein the prompt is a modeless
2 prompt to advise a user of the object being suppressed.

1 15. A method according to Claim 13, wherein the prompt is a modeless
2 prompt to advise a user of the object being suppressed and to provide the user with an
3 activation choice.

1 16. A method according to Claim 1,
2 wherein assessing which of the plural trust levels is to be accorded to the
3 object evaluates criteria including whether the object is beneath a security setting and
4 whether a security setting flag is set, and

5 wherein further suppressing the object includes displaying a prompt to
6 indicate the suppression of the object based upon a positive evaluation of any of the
7 criteria.

1 17. A method according to Claim 16, wherein the prompt is a modal
2 prompt to provide a user with an activation choice.

1 18. A method according to Claim 16, wherein the prompt is a modeless
2 prompt to advise a user of the object being suppressed.

1 19. A method according to Claim 16, wherein the prompt is a modeless
2 prompt to advise a user of the object being suppressed and to provide the user with an
3 activation choice.

1 20. A method according to Claim 1, wherein suppressing the object
2 includes displaying a user interface to describe the content of the suppressed object and to
3 provide a user with an opportunity to activate the content of the suppressed object.

1 21. A computer-readable medium having one or more instructions that,
2 when read, cause one or more processors to:
3 determine a trust level for an object associated with a web page;
4 suppress an action associated with the object based on the trust level; and
5 provide an activation opportunity for the action.

1 22. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 21, wherein the
2 object is one of a COM object or an ActiveX control.

1 23. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 21, wherein the
2 object is embedded in the web page, and includes any one of a downloadable file, a link
3 to another file, a popup window, graphic data, a video file, an audio file, and a text file.

1 24. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 21, wherein the
2 object is a link to an object on a remote server, wherein further the object on the remote
3 server includes any one of a downloadable file, another web page, a popup window,
4 graphic data, a video file, an audio file, and a text file.

1 25. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 21,
2 wherein the one or more instructions to determine the trust level for the
3 object causes the one or more processors to evaluate criteria including whether the object
4 is from a trusted source, whether the object is to upgrade an existing file, and whether a
5 download flag is set, and

6 wherein further the one or more instructions to provide the activation
7 opportunity for the action causes the one or more processors to display a user interface
8 indicating the suppression of the action due to a positive evaluation of any of the criteria
9 and offering an activation option.

1 26. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 25, wherein the
2 user interface is a modal prompt.

1 27. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 25, wherein the
2 user interface is a modeless prompt.

1 28. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 21,
2 wherein the one or more instructions to determine the trust level for the
3 object causes the one or more processors to evaluate criteria including whether the object
4 is to be rendered and whether a download flag is set, and
5 wherein further the one or more instructions to provide an activation
6 opportunity for the action causes the one or more processors to display a user interface
7 indicating the suppression of the action due to a positive evaluation of any of the criteria
8 and offering an activation option.

1 29. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 28, wherein the
2 user interface is a modal prompt.

1 30. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 28, wherein the
2 prompt is a modeless prompt.

1 31. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 21,
2 wherein the one or more instructions to determine the trust level for the
3 object causes the one or more processors to determine whether the object is a popup
4 window, and
5 wherein further the one or more instructions to provide an activation
6 opportunity for the action causes the one or more processors to display a user interface

7 indicating the suppression of the action due to a positive determination and offering an
8 activation option.

1 32. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 31, wherein the
2 prompt is a modeless prompt.

1 33. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 21,
2 wherein the one or more instructions to determine the trust level for the
3 object causes the one or more processors to evaluate criteria including whether the object
4 is beneath a security setting and whether a security setting flag is set, and
5 wherein further the one or more instructions to provide an activation
6 opportunity for the action causes the one or more processors to display a user interface
7 indicating the suppression of the action due to a positive evaluation of either of the
8 criteria and offering an activation option.

1 34. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 33, wherein the
2 prompt is a modal prompt.

1 35. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 33, wherein the
2 prompt is a modeless prompt.

1 36. An apparatus, comprising:
2 a detector to detect an object associated with a web page;
3 an analyzer to perform a trust analysis for the object;
4 a blocker to block an action associated with the object; and

5 an interface to provide an activation opportunity.

1 37. An apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein the object is one of a
2 COM object or an ActiveX control.

1 38. An apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein the object is embedded
2 in the web page, and includes any one of downloadable code, a link to a URL, a popup
3 window, graphic data, a video file, an audio file, and a text file.

1 39. An apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein the object is a link to
2 an object on a remote server, wherein further the object on the remote server includes any
3 one of downloadable code, a URL, a popup window, graphic data, a video file, an audio
4 file, and a text file.

1 40. An apparatus according to Claim 36,
2 wherein the analyzer is to evaluate criteria including whether the object is
3 from a trusted source, whether the object is to upgrade an existing object, and whether a
4 download flag is set, and

5 wherein further the blocker is to display a prompt indicating that the action
6 has been blocked based upon a positive evaluation of any of the criteria.

1 41. An apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein the prompt is a modal
2 user interface to provide a user with an activation choice.

1 42. An apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein the prompt is a
2 modeless user interface to advise a user of the action being blocked.

1 43. An apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein the prompt is a
2 modeless user interface to advise a user of the action being blocked and to provide the
3 user with an activation choice.

1 44. An apparatus according to Claim 36,
2 wherein the analyzer is to evaluate criteria including whether the object is
3 to be rendered and whether a download flag is set, and
4 wherein further the blocker is to display a prompt indicating that the action
5 has been blocked based upon a positive evaluation of any of the criteria.

1 45. An apparatus according to Claim 44, wherein the prompt is a modal
2 user interface to provide a user with an activation choice.

1 46. An apparatus according to Claim 44, wherein the prompt is a
2 modeless user interface to advise a user of the action being blocked.

1 47. An apparatus according to Claim 44, wherein the prompt is a
2 modeless user interface to advise a user of the action being blocked and to provide the
3 user with an activation choice.

1 48. An apparatus according to Claim 36,

2 wherein the analyzer is to determine whether the object is a popup window,

3 and

4 wherein further the blocker is to display a prompt indicating that the action

5 has been blocked based upon a positive determination.

1 49. An apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein the prompt is a

2 modeless user interface to advise a user of the action being blocked.

1 50. An apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein the prompt is a

2 modeless user interface to advise a user of the action being blocked and to provide the

3 user with an activation choice.

1 51. An apparatus according to Claim 36,

2 wherein the analyzer is to evaluate criteria including whether the object is

3 beneath a security setting and whether a security setting flag is set, and

4 wherein further the blocker is to display a prompt indicating that the action

5 has been blocked based upon a positive evaluation of any of the criteria.

1 52. An apparatus according to Claim 51, wherein the prompt is a modal

2 user interface to provide a user with an activation choice.

1 53. An apparatus according to Claim 51, wherein the prompt is a

2 modeless user interface to advise a user of the action being blocked.

1 54. An apparatus according to Claim 51, wherein the prompt is a
2 modeless user interface to advise a user of the action being blocked and to provide the
3 user with an activation choice.

1 55. An apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein the blocker is to
2 display a user interface to describe the content of the suppressed action and to provide a
3 user with an opportunity to activate the action of the object.

1 56. An apparatus, comprising:
2 means for detecting an object associated with a media object;
3 means for performing a trust analysis for the object;
4 means for blocking an action associated with the object; and
5 means for providing an activation opportunity.

1 57. An apparatus according to Claim 56, wherein the media object is a
2 web page.

1 58. An apparatus according to Claim 56, wherein the media object is a
2 computer-readable media object.

1 59. An apparatus according to Claim 56, wherein the object is one of a
2 COM object or an ActiveX control.

1 60. An apparatus according to Claim 56, wherein the object is embedded
2 in the web page, and includes any one of downloadable code, a link to a URL, a popup
3 window, graphic data, a video file, an audio file, and a text file.

1 61. An apparatus according to Claim 56, wherein the object is a link to
2 an object on a remote server, wherein further the object on the remote server includes any
3 one of downloadable code, a URL, a popup window, graphic data, a video file, an audio
4 file, and a text file.

1 62. An apparatus according to Claim 56,
2 wherein the means for performing a trust analysis is to evaluate criteria
3 including whether the object is from a trusted source, whether the object is to upgrade an
4 existing object, and whether a download flag is set, and
5 wherein further the means for blocking is to display a prompt indicating
6 that the action has been blocked based upon a positive evaluation of any of the criteria.

1 63. An apparatus according to Claim 56,
2 wherein the means for performing a trust analysis is to evaluate criteria
3 including whether the object is to be rendered and whether a download flag is set, and
4 wherein further the means for blocking is to display a prompt indicating
5 that the action has been blocked based upon a positive evaluation of any of the criteria.

1 64. An apparatus according to Claim 56,
2 wherein the means for performing a trust analysis is to determine whether
3 the object is a popup window, and
4 wherein further the means for blocking is to display a prompt indicating
5 that the action has been blocked based upon a positive determination.

1 65. An apparatus according to Claim 56,
2 wherein the means for performing a trust analysis is to evaluate criteria
3 including whether the object is beneath a security setting and whether a security setting
4 flag is set, and
5 wherein further the means for blocking is to display a prompt indicating
6 that the action has been blocked based upon a positive evaluation of any of the criteria.

1 66. An apparatus according to Claim 56, wherein the means for blocking
2 is to display a user interface to describe the content of the suppressed action and to
3 provide a user with an opportunity to activate the action of the object.